

[Attorney Docket #12406/81]

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s) : Richard FINOCCHIO
 Serial No. : 10/770,892
 Filing Date : Feb. 2, 2004
 For : PLAYER KEY FOR AN INSTANT-WIN LOTTERY TICKET AND
 METHOD FOR VALIDATING SAME

Group Art Unit: 3711
 Examiner : Benjamin LAYNO
 Confirmation No.: 1099

Mail Stop AF
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

Date: Nov. 13, 2006

Signature:

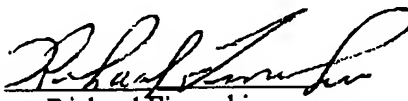
Res. 47,893

AFFIDAVIT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.132

1. I am the named inventor in the above-captioned application.
2. I am employed as a consulting engineer for GTECH Corporation.
3. I have worked in the lottery industry for over thirty years. Prior to joining GTECH Corporation, I worked for the Massachusetts Lottery for over twenty years. I am very familiar with instant ticket lottery games and the processes and systems used to operate them. During the course of my work in the lottery industry, I have worked on the development and deployment of systems for managing instant ticket lottery games with several different state and international lottery organizations.
4. Attached to this declaration as Ex. A. is a true and correct copy of a news article from the Associated Press describing a situation in Massachusetts where a million dollar winning instant lottery ticket from the "\$10,000,000 Hold'em Poker" game was allegedly discarded by its purchaser. The article reports that the dispute over ownership of the winning ticket resulted in litigation.
5. Attached to this declaration as Ex. B are true and correct copies of scratched and unscratched instant lottery tickets for the Massachusetts Lottery's "\$10,000,000 Hold'em Poker" lottery ticket game.

6. Based on my experience with instant ticket lotteries, I believe that unredeemed winning instant lottery tickets are perceived as a problem by state lotteries, as well as by lottery customers.
7. Based on my experience with instant ticket lotteries, I believe the problem of unredeemed lottery tickets has increased as instant lottery tickets have become more complex.
8. Based on my experience with instant ticket lotteries, it is my belief that there is a long felt need for alternative approaches to indicate to instant lottery ticket purchasers that they are in possession of a winning instant lottery ticket. Furthermore, I believe that the use of my claimed invention would satisfy this need and reduce the likelihood of winning instant lottery tickets going unredeemed.
9. I declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and I further declare that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under § 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful statements may jeopardize the validity of the application and any patent issuing thereon.

Date 11/13/2006

Signed: 
Richard Finocchio